

Appln. No. 09/747,942
Amdt. Dated January 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 22, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 6-9, following entry of this Amendment, are all the claims pending in the subject patent application. Claims 7-9 have been added by amendment.

Reconsideration of the subject patent application and allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Cyr et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,913) ("Cyr"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The subject application discloses fabric material that is widely used for a care label (or quality label) on clothing. A pattern printed with fluorescent pigment ink cannot be observed from a top view or bottom view under direct sunlight. The pattern only becomes visible when the top and/or bottom of the care label is irradiated with ultraviolet light. Thus, a forger is not aware of the "hidden" print pattern. Further, the fabric material provides an effective and easy distinction between genuine and forged goods. Both sides of the fabric material comprise coating layers, which are suitable for normal printing (e.g., offset, dot matrix, thermal transfer and laser printing), and branded logo marks, characters, names, images, etc. may be printed with high quality. Moreover, the fabric material is strong, durable, and withstands repetitive washing and dry cleaning.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Cyr discloses different embodiments including an envelope 10, a credit card 30 and an alternative embodiment 40 using invisible coded markings.

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Invisible imprinted or encoded information 16 is printed on the surface of a substrate 12, 32, 42 and covered with a coating layer. The imprinted information is excited by infrared light such that fluorescence radiates at a wavelength greater than 650nm. Such fluorescence is invisible to the human eye under both visible and ultraviolet light sources. See, e.g., Col. 5, lines 8-12; col. 5, lines 67-col. 6, line 21.

Among other things, Cyr fails to teach or suggest Applicant's "first coating layer formed on a non-printed side of said base," as recited in independent claim 6. The Patent Office asserts that the second and first coating layers are described at column 5, lines 57-61 and column 6, lines 60-67, respectively. However, the Patent Office has incorrectly relied on teachings of two separate and distinct embodiments described in Cyr. The text at column 5, lines 57-61 describes an envelope 10 (FIGS. 1 and 2), and the text at column 6, lines 60-67 describes a credit card 30 (FIG. 3). An alternate embodiment is also described in the Cyr patent and illustrated in FIG. 4. In each of the three embodiments, as discussed below, there is only one coating layer formed on the surface of the substrate containing the invisible imprinted or encoded information. There is no teaching in the Cyr reference of an additional coating formed on the non-printed side (e.g., the side that does not contain invisible imprinted or encoded information) of the substrate in any of the embodiments.

As illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 of Cyr, the envelope 10 includes invisible imprinted or encoded information 16 contained on a separation layer 18 in the inner portion 14 of the envelope 10. Col. 5, lines 31-36. A coating "such as IRIODIN can be placed on the surface of the envelope to impart a color to the

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envelope (emphasis added)." Col. 5, lines 59-64. The credit card 30, as illustrated in Figure 3 of Cyr, includes a signature area 32 having invisible encoded information positioned therein. The "surface of the signature area 32 may consist of a coating." Col. 6, line 63-66. "When only a coating is applied to the signature area 32, the invisible encoded information is preferably printed on the surface of the card 30 before the coating is applied (emphasis added)." Col. 6, line 66-col. 7, line 3. In the alternative embodiment 40, as illustrated in Figure 4 of Cyr, a coating layer 44 is formed on the substrate 42 containing invisible imprinted or encoded information 16. "The invisible compound 16 having the fluorophore is printed on the substrate 42 and then covered by a coating layer 44 (emphasis added)." Col. 7, lines 7-9. Clearly, there is only one layer formed on the surface of the substrate containing the invisible imprinted or encoded information, and no additional coating formed on the non-printed side (e.g., the side that does not contain invisible imprinted or encoded information) of the substrate is taught, suggested or disclosed in the Cyr reference.

In contradistinction, the fabric material, as set forth in independent claim 6, has two coating layers. One coating layer is formed on the surface of the base containing the print pattern, and the other coating layer is formed on the surface that does not include the print pattern.

Further, Cyr does not disclose that "both of said first and second coating layers hav[e] opacity of 20-92%," as recited in independent claim 6. There is no teaching, suggestion or disclosure of this limitation in the Cyr reference.

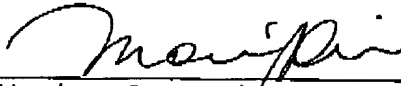
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Since Cyr does not teach each and every limitation of claim 6, Cyr cannot anticipate this claim. Thus, the rejection of claim 6 should be withdrawn.

Claims 7-9 are newly presented to define further patentably distinguishable features of the invention. Cyr does not teach, suggest or disclose first and second coating layers, and thus, claims 7-9 are submitted to be patentable over the Cyr reference.

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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